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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

PHAN, TAM T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2144

DATE MAILED: 04/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/828,931

Applicant(s)

TIAN, YUNQI

Examiner

Tam (Jenny) Phan

Art Unit

2144

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 December 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 30-58 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 30-58 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 April 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This application has been examined. Amendment received on 12/23/2004 has been entered. Claims 1-29 are cancelled and claims 30-58 are newly added.
2. Claims 30-58 are presented for examination.

Priority

3. This application claims benefit of the provisional application 60/203,943 (05/12/2000).
4. The effective filing date for the subject matter defined in the pending claims which has support in parent 60/203,943 in this application is 05/12/2000. Any new subject matter defined in the claims not previously disclosed in parent 60/203,943, is entitled to the effective filing date of 04/10/2001.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 30-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tripp et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,516,337), hereinafter referred to as Tripp, in view of Smith, III (U.S. Patent Number 6,772,139), hereinafter referred to as Smith.
7. Regarding claim 30, Tripp disclosed an Internet search service system comprising: a search service provider (SSP) level search subsystem located on an SSP server for an SSP site, said SSP level search subsystem using web units as indexing

Art Unit: 2144

objects and search results, each web unit being an information entity collection of at least one web page of a web site and web unit index and categorization metadata for categorizing each web unit of the web site, each web page of each web unit being related to and integrated in the associated web unit according to a predetermined categorization criteria (column 1 line 14-25, line 47-65, column 6 lines 32-52, column 15 lines 49-61, column 25 lines 12-31, column 27 lines 45-61).

8. Tripp taught the invention substantially as claimed. However, Tripp did not expressly teach and an in-site level search subsystem located on a web site server for an associated web site, said in-site level search subsystem being configured to effect searches limited to all web pages the associated web site; wherein said in-site level search subsystem is communicatively linked to said SSP level search subsystem, and is configured to receive, carry, and execute an SSP level search query from the SSP level search subsystem.

9. Tripp suggested exploration of art and/or provided a reason to modify the search service system with additional features such as the sublevel search system to help users locate pertinent information in the sea of information available on the Internet (column 1 lines 25-28, column 3 lines 17-34, column 51 lines 58-64).

10. Smith disclosed a search system having an in-site level search subsystem located on a web site server for an associated web site, said in-site level search subsystem being configured to effect searches limited to all web pages the associated web site; wherein said in-site level search subsystem is communicatively linked to said SSP level search subsystem, and is configured to receive, carry, and execute an SSP

Art Unit: 2144

level search query from the SSP level search subsystem (Figures 1-7, column 3 line 59-column 4 line 8, column 5 line 58-column 6 line 16, column 11 lines 57-67).

11. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the search service system of Tripp with the search system of Smith to include the sublevel search service feature in order to help users locate pertinent information in more effectively (Tripp, column 1 lines 25-28) since search engine systems are difficult because search results typically contain too much undesired information and because it is difficult for users to construct search parameters (Smith, column 1 lines 43-53).

12. Regarding claim 31, Tripp and Smith disclosed an Internet search service system wherein said SSP level search subsystem comprises: self-submission means for submitting web unit index and categorization data for a predetermined web unit; data organizer means for indexing and sorting web unit index and categorization data obtained by said self-submission means (Tripp, column 14 lines 12-25, column 15 lines 49-61, column 27 lines 45-61); and search service means for obtaining web unit search results based on queries, narrowing down obtained web unit search results according to selected narrow down variables, and providing personalized service (Smith, Figures 3 and 6, column 1 line 54-column 2 line 11, column 4 lines 5-8, column 11 lines 58-67).

13. Regarding claim 32, Tripp disclosed an Internet search service system wherein said data organizer means comprises: a web unit database with an index database and a multi-directory database, said index database being configured to store input information of web units, said multi-directory database being configured to store web unit index and categorization data categorized according to a subject classification; and

Art Unit: 2144

said web unit database configured to store indexed and sorted web unit index and categorization data (column 14 Table 1, column 15 Table 2, column 27 lines 45-column 28 lines 18).

14. Regarding claim 33, Tripp disclosed an Internet search service system wherein said self-submission means comprises downloadable submission software configured to provide forms for web unit self-submission (column 13 lines 52-65, column 14 Table 1).

15. Regarding claim 34, Smith disclosed an Internet search service system wherein said forms include an index form, a multi-directory entry form, a tutorial for submission, a suggestion form (Figures 1-7).

16. Regarding claim 35, Tripp disclosed an Internet search service system wherein said downloadable submission software is configured to detect and verify submitted data (column 13 lines 52-65, column 14 Table 1, column 16 lines 9-32).

17. Regarding claim 36, Tripp disclosed an Internet search service system wherein said downloadable submission software includes update reminding software for reminding users to provide new web unit information (column 13 lines 52-65, column 14 Table 1, column 16 lines 9-32, column 17 lines 32-64).

18. Regarding claim 37, Tripp disclosed an Internet search service system wherein said downloadable submission software is configured to detect any update or change in web units (column 13 lines 52-65, column 14 Table 1, column 16 lines 9-32, column 17 lines 32-64).

19. Regarding claim 38, Smith disclosed an Internet search service system wherein said search service comprises: a personal directory for recording web units visited, and a personal search agent for conducting searches (Figures 3-7, column 13 lines 1-26).

Art Unit: 2144

20. Regarding claim 39, Smith disclosed an Internet search service system wherein said search service means configured to analyze search patterns, provide search improvement suggestions, and new web units based on the analysis (Figures 3-7, column 13 lines 1-26).

21. Regarding claim 40, Smith disclosed an Internet search service system further including a user form for a user to rate web units under certain quality criteria, to report any erroneous web submission, and to suggest improvement on search quality (Figures 3-7, column 13 lines 13-26, column 15 lines 1-16).

22. Regarding claim 41, Smith disclosed an Internet search service system wherein said search service means configured to post any unsolved search query for an Internet community to provide a solution (Figures 3-7).

23. Regarding claim 42, Tripp and Smith disclosed an Internet search service system wherein said in-site level subsystem comprises: means for conveying feedback of users to web site owners (column 17 lines 47-64, column 15 lines 1-16); a web page authoring tool to simplify metadata implementation in web page writing (Tripp, column 5 lines 30-65); and an in-site search tool kit (Smith, Figures 3-7, column 11 lines 58-67, column 16 lines 13-23).

24. Regarding claim 43, Tripp and Smith disclosed an Internet search service system wherein said in-site level subsystem further comprises: at least one web robot configured to understand metadata created by said authoring and to index data within a web site (Tripp, column 5 lines 14-25, lines 30-46); an in-site index database created by the said web robot (Smith, column 1 lines 29-42, column 16 lines 7-12, column 18 line

Art Unit: 2144

63-column 19 line 11); and an in-site search engine program to conduct an in-site search (Smith, Figures 3-7, column 11 lines 58-67, column 16 lines 13-23).

25. Regarding claim 44, Smith disclosed an Internet search service system wherein said in-site search program is communicatively linked to a personal search agent, and can initiate an in-site and provide search results from the in-site search (Figures 3-7, column 11 lines 58-67, column 16 lines 13-23).

26. Regarding claims 45-58, the Internet search service method corresponds directly to the Internet search service system of claims 30-44, and thus these claims are rejected using the same rationale.

27. Since all the limitations of the claimed invention were disclosed by the combination of Tripp and Smith, claims 30-58 are rejected.

Response to Arguments

28. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 30-58 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

29. As the rejection reads, Examiner asserts that the combination of these teachings render the claimed invention obvious.

Conclusion

30. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

Art Unit: 2144

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

31. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Himmel et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,212,522) disclosed searchable repositories of bookmark sets that are stored in a computer system; each bookmark set can be downloaded to a client browser as a unit. Each bookmark set contains a set of Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) and is associated with the related information such as a set of key words, one or more topics and user specific information, the bookmark set is downloadable as a unit to the client browser. When a search query from a client containing a set of key words is received, the stored bookmark sets are searched for one or more bookmark sets associated with at least one keyword matching a keyword from the search query. A list of bookmark sets which satisfy the query, i.e. are associated with matching keywords, are returned to the client browser. Responsive to a request for downloading a selected bookmark set the selected bookmark is served to the client. The selected bookmark set is received and used by the client browser to access the set of URLs in the selected bookmark set.

Art Unit: 2144

b. Perkins (U.S. Patent Number 6,253,198) disclosed a process for maintaining ongoing registration for pages on a given search engine. It is a method to actively cause an updating of a specific Internet search engine database regarding a particular WWW resource. The updated information can encompass changed, added, or deleted content of a specific WWW site. The process comprises the steps of having software tools at a local WWW site manually and/or automatically keep an index of added, changed, or deleted content to a particular WWW site since that WWW site was last indexed by a specific Internet search engine. The software tools will notify a specific Internet search engine of the URLs of specific WWW site resources that have been added, changed, or deleted. The Internet search engine will process the list of indices of changes, additions or deletions provided by a web site, or add the URL of resources that require indexing or re-indexing to a database and visit the WWW site to index added or re-index changed content when possible. The benefit to the Internet is the creation of an exception-based, distributed updating system to the Internet search engine as opposed to the cyclical and repetitive inquiring by the Internet search engine to visit all WWW sites to find added, changed, or deleted content.

32. Refer to the enclosed PTO-892 for details and complete listing of other pertinent prior art of record.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tam (Jenny) Phan whose telephone number is (571) 272-3930. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:00.

Art Unit: 2144

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Cuchlinski can be reached on (571) 272-3925. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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